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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PNAT](#) [KDEM](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: UNAMI TO PULL BACK ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND
FOCUS MORE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: BAGHDAD 567

Classified By: Political Counselor Robert S. Ford for
reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: At a February 27 meeting with MNF-I
Deputy Chiefs of Staff MG Lynch, MG Findley and Poloff,
DSRSG Stephan De Mistura said UNAMI clearly understood
that constitution review would be best left off the agenda
at the present time. De Mistura indicated that UNAMI would
shift resources away from this area to efforts in support
of Human Rights. END SUMMARY.

UNAMI TO REFOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

¶2. (C) On February 27, MG Lynch, MNF-I Deputy Chief of Staff,
Strategic Effects Directorate, MG Findley, Deputy Chief
of Staff for Strategy Plans and Assessments, and Poloff
met with DSRSG de Mistura. During the meeting de Mistura
said that UNAMI clearly understood that now
was not the time to push for constitutional review (reftel).
He said that this position would be respected by UNAMI
and that, unless the Iraqis themselves push it, UNAMI
"would not open this Pandora's Box". To this end, he said
UNAMI will unofficially and quietly reduce its staff working
on
constitutional reform and refocus on other issues,
specifically
human rights.

GOAL TO ESTABLISH A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

¶3. (C) DSRSG de Mistura said that an Iraqi-owned human
rights system must be built to counter the death squads,
indefinite detentions and other human rights abuses. To
facilitate this he said that UNAMI will push the Iraqi
government to set up an inclusive and independent Human
Rights Commission by the end of 2006. De Mistura said
that such a commission would be an important tool for the
Iraqi people and serve as a bridge to bring international
standards on Human Rights to bear in Iraq. According to
de Mistura, in addition to this commission, UNAMI will
also help draft specific legislation to improve human
rights and support the build up of independent judiciary
and penal institutions.

¶4. (C) De Mistura expressed a deep concern for human
rights abuses targeting children, saying that he is aware
of specific cases where terrorists have targeted children
and schools. De Mistura stated that these kinds of
attacks are particularly disturbing and UNAMI is tracking

the issue and plans to launch a strong campaign to bring the issue to the attention of the international community. He specifically asked for MNF-I support in preparing this campaign by providing statistics and documentation where MNF-I is aware of such attacks, to include photos if possible. De Mistura said UNAMI will publish a special report on the topic to highlight the problem to the international community to perhaps "embarrass" the insurgents to reduce such attacks.

KHALILZAD